

Robert Greene Sterne Edward J. Kessler Goldstein Michael Q. Lee Steven R. Ludwig John M. Covert Lawrence B. Bugaisky Donald J. Featherstone Judith U. Kim Timothy J. Shea, Jr. Patrick E. Garrett Donald R. Banowit Tereśa U. Medlei Kendrick P. Pattersor Vincent L. Capuano Albert J. Fasulo II* Eldora Ellison Floyd Thomas C. Fiala Brian J. Del Buono Virgil Lee Beaston*

Kimberly N. Reddick Theodore A. Wood Elizabeth J. Haanes Joseph S. Ostroff Frank R. Cottingham Christine M. Lhulier Rae Lynn Prengaman Jane Shershenovich* Lawrence J. Carroll* George S. Bardmesser Daniel A. Klein* Rodney G. Maze Jason D. Eisenberg Michael A. Specht

LuAnne M. Yuricek*

Registered Patent Agents • Karen R. Markowicz Nancy J. Leith Ann E. Summerfield Helene C. Carlson Helene C. Carlson Gaby L. Longsworth Matthew J. Dowd Aaron L. Schwartz Angelique G. Uy Mary B. Tung Katrina Y. Pei Bryan L. Skelton Robert A. Schwartzman John J. Figueroa Timothy A. Dovle Timothy A. Doyle Jennifer R. Mahalingappa Teresa A. Colella Jeffrey S. Lundgren Victoria S. Rutherford

Of Counsel Kenneth C. Bass III Lisa A. Dunner Evan R. Smith

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May 12, 2003

WRITER'S DIRECT NUMBER: (202) 772-8560 **INTERNET ADDRESS:** RESMOND@SKGF.COM

Art Unit 1647

Commissioner for Patents PO Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Re:

U.S. Utility Patent Application

Appl. No. 09/831,050; Int'l Filing Date: November 5, 1999

No. 09/831,050; Int'l Filing Date: November 3, 1999 TECH CENTER 1600/2000

Inventors:

Our Ref:

1581.0800000/RWE

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for appropriate action are the following documents:

- 1: Reply to Restriction Requirement; and
- 2. Return Postcard.

It is respectfully requested that the attached postcard be stamped with the date of filing of these documents, and that it be returned to our courier. In the event that extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned.

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.

Robert W. Esmond Attorney for Applicants Registration No. 32,893

RWE/VSR:krm **Enclosures** SKGF DC1:132746.1

Sterne, Kessler, Goldstein & Fox PLLC.: 1100 New York Avenue, NW: Washington, DC 20005: 202.371.2600 f 202.371.2540: www.skgf.com